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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Rich D. Lang
Application No. 09/773,343
Filed: January 31, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 44PAO300

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed February 11, 2005, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the nonfinal Office action mailed February 13, 2003, which set a statutory period for reply of three (3) months. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on May 14, 2003.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136, an extension of time must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum period obtainable for reply to avoid abandonment. Accordingly, since the extension of time submitted with the petition on February 11, 2005 was subsequent to the maximum period obtainable for reply, an extension of time fee is unnecessary.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 3722.

Karen Creasy

Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy